

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-8. Canceled.

9.-24. Canceled.

25. (Currently Amended) The luminescent photostable reaction product of a component and a water soluble dye selected from the group consisting of luminescent cyanine, merocyanine, styryl, and oxonol dyes containing at least one sulfonate or sulfonic acid group and which wherein said dye contains at least one substituent to make said dye covalently reactive with said component, the individual dye molecules on said component having an average molar extinction coefficient of at least 50,000 liters per mole centimeter, an average quantum yield of at least 5 percent and said dye absorbs and emits light maximally in the 400 to 900 nm range when the photostable reaction product is in an aqueous environment.

26. (Currently Amended) A luminescently labelled component of an aqueous liquid comprising a water soluble luminescent dye selected from the group consisting of luminescent cyanine, merocyanine, styryl, and oxonol dyes containing at least one sulfonate or sulfonic acid group, said dye being covalently reactive with and being bound to said component, the individual dye molecules on said component having an average molar extinction coefficient of at least 50,000 liters per mole centimeter, an average quantum yield of at least 5 percent and said dye absorbs and emits light maximally in the 400 to 900 nm range when the labelled component is in an aqueous environment.

27. (Previously Presented) The luminescently labeled component according to claim 26 wherein said component contains an amine, aldehyde, sulphhydryl or hydroxyl group.

28. (Previously Presented) The labelled component according to claim 25 or claim 26, wherein said component is selected from antibodies, proteins, peptides, enzyme substrates, hormones, lymphokines, metabolites, receptors, antigens, haptens, lectins, toxins, carbohydrates, sugars, oligosaccharides, polysaccharides, nucleotides, derivatised nucleotides, nucleic acids, deoxynucleic acids, derivatised nucleic acids, derivatised deoxynucleic acids, DNA fragments, RNA fragments, derivatised DNA fragments, derivatised RNA fragments and drugs.

29. Canceled.